

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. With entry of this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 8, 9, 13 and 16-18 and cancel claims 14 and 15 without prejudice. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-12. Applicants have amended dependent claims 8 and 9 to better claim the invention. Support for the amendment to claim 8 is found throughout the specification and drawings including, without limitation, at page 17, lines 23-26 and Fig. 6A at steps S61-63. Support for the amendment to claim 9 is found throughout the specification and drawings including, without limitation, at page 19, line 12 to page 20, line 1 and Fig. 6D at steps S81, 82 and 87.

Rejection Under § 101

The Examiner rejected claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, because the claims were directed to a “computer program.” Applicants have amended claims 16-18 to recite a computer-readable medium. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection Under § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 13-15 and 18 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Digital Production Console DM 2000 Owner’s Manual (“Yamaha”) in view of Digidesign ProControl User’s Guide (“Digidesign”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention, as set forth in claim 13, is directed to a parameter setting device. The device comprises a plurality of mechanical operators to which a plurality of parameters are respectively allotted. During a scene recall, mechanical operators may move automatically to change the values of the corresponding parameters. The claimed device includes a “release controlling section” that stops “the change of the values of the plurality of parameters” and stops

“the movement of the mechanical operators” in response to a command. In this way, the user can stop the scene recall midway in the process.

Applicants have amended claim 13 to incorporate the recitations of claim 15 and have cancelled claims 14 and 15 without recitation. The recitations of claim 15 provide release operators that allow the user to issue commands for stopping the change in values of parameters and the movements of operators *individually* rather than *globally*.

The Examiner cited Yamaha at page 161. This page discloses that a user can set the time that faders move to their final position when a scene is recalled. There is no disclosure of the “release controlling section” that stops the change in the value of the parameters and the movements of the operators individually.

It appears from the Office Action that the Examiner has acknowledged this deficiency of Yamaha. To make up for this deficiency, the Examiner has cited Digidesign. At page 172, Digidesign describes an AUTO SUSPEND switch that “globally suspends record and playback of *all* automation parameters on all channel strips. All channels are left in their present mode, but automatic operations are temporarily suspended.” (Emphasis in original.) Thus, Digidesign at pages 172 and 173 only discloses global suspension and not individual suspension. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13 is not obvious in view of Yamaha and Digidesign.

Applicants have similarly amended claim 18 and respectfully submit that claim 18 is not obvious in view of Yamaha and Digidesign for at least the reasons set forth above.

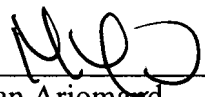
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032040400.

Dated: July 11, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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